



Portage County DEMOCRAT

Getting Together, Moving Forward

November/December 2020

Portage County
Democrats:

How does it feel knowing you made a difference?



By November 3, over 200 volunteers in Portage County had completed a phone banking shift. In the final four days before the election, we completed well over 200 phone banking shifts, and hundreds more in the few weeks before the election.

Those numbers are meaningful. Wisconsin went blue by only 20,000 votes: that's a field margin, or a margin of victory small enough that it can be affected by a robust field program. We have heard a couple of ways to think about translating your efforts into votes: 100 dials leads to one vote, or one phone bank shift leads to one vote. Either way, Portage County: you were responsible for a heck of a lot of votes, in a close race, in the biggest of elections.

And don't forget, we also won two other big elections: we re-elected Representative Katrina Shankland and Congressman Ron Kind. In those elections, your efforts went even further, as the races were much tighter.

We know many of you are disappointed we did not also win the Paul Piotrowski or John Baldus' election. We are too. Paul and John (and Tim and Ally) ran incredible campaigns against incumbents who had the benefit of a map drawn by Republicans. But that's going to change. We preserved the veto and have a Democratic governor; together, that gives us the leverage we need to draw fair maps next year, so that candidates like Paul and John stand a fighting chance in future races.

We are so proud of all we accomplished this year, but this is just the beginning. We got into this mess because when things were good, we sat back and reveled in our victories--but we've learned our lesson. We can't and won't rest on our laurels. The work is just beginning.

So, we are passing the baton back to you. You have the tools, the people, and the spirit to take back Wisconsin--to beat Ron Johnson in 2022, keep a Democratic governor in Madison, and win back the state legislature. We know because we've seen you all in action and what you can accomplish as a team despite a global pandemic. We believe in you.

Thank you for letting us be a part of your community during this time. It has been our incredible pleasure and delight getting to know all of you.

-Marc and Hannah

Field Organizer, Portage County

Marc.Epstein@2020Victory.com (914) 261-1670 wisdems.org/give



Many people to thank for this result

The tale of volunteers on a new Campaign Trail, 2020

Picture our beautifully renovated headquarters with its new facade and its interior newly cleaned, painted and sanitized. Who could have known we'd have to go virtual in so many ways!

We couldn't have opened to the public without, Karyn Tank, Trudy & David Pederson and Lynn Wyman's physical-plant work. Importantly, Lynn ably guided us through Covid 19 precautions and equipment. We wouldn't have been able to run the operation 6 days a week and kept the front office staffed regularly and capably without Gary Hawley throughout the campaign and the Front Office Volunteer staff: Mary Vils, who coordinated the schedule - Kathy Celer, Larry Sipiorski, Ned Grossnickle, Rob Hofmann, Becky Woodward, Bobbi Kubish, Sandy Davis, Ellen Miskowski, Christine Stack, Lynn Wyman, Valerie Landowski and not least of all, Michele Bjella who lead the campaign effort at HQs and was on duty mostly 24/7. Many thanks to Joan Garski for making countless beautiful masks available for donation, as well.

Lacking the ability to canvass door to door, a stellar Portage County Phone Team was assembled, with 200 Volunteers making phone calls first to Portage County voters and then state-wide under the able organizing of Marc Epstein and Hannah Frontier. Thank you to all the volunteers, including board members, who stepped up to reach voters and lead our teams, during the countless weeks and months of the campaign.

Thank you to the Sign painting and installing Volunteers, upwards of 70 Volunteers who jumped in to cover our districts with newly painted and pre-constructed signs for the Biden/Harris, Paul Piotrowski & Katrina campaigns, making a big visible splash across central Wi. It happened with Ray Cal's leadership along with Marian Trzbiatowski, Mary McComb, Rick & Lynn Wyman's work. (A listing of all persons responsible for this effort are listed later in this newsletter).

We're also grateful for our Communications team during this pandemic: Jack Allgaier with PCDP Updates and more, Rick Christofferson our Social media coordinator and Zoom host, Trudy Pederson keeping us informed with the newsletter and Marty Welter our website master. Thanks also for our Data entry volunteers: Gary, Mary Vils, Jackie Dekay, Nancy Foth, Mary McComb, Karen Fadner and Lynn Wyman. Thanks to Jan Way who has kept our Wednesday socially distanced Iverson Park Coffee & conversation going throughout.

Also to those that canvassed prior to Covid, served as poll workers, worked on Campaign committees, came in for yard signs, offered to help or donate to candidates and any others not mentioned here, a huge and hearty THANK-YOU! Michele Bjella

Campaign Photos



Photos left to right: Headquarters, volunteers for Biden-Harris, damaged campaign sign for Paul, volunteers making phone calls including Marc & Hannah our super heroes & a beautiful day for Coffee & Conversation at Iverson. Photos by Jan Way, Michele Bjella, Alan C Smith



Proving once again

The World Is Ruled By Those Who Show Up!

Signs were in the forefront of this election ~ by Jan Way

For the past number of years **Kent and Sue Hall** worked tirelessly in organizing crews to construct, paint and set out signs for progressive candidates in Portage County. We owe them a great deal of thanks for all that they did. Due to ill health they needed a break and it looked like our work in this area may not happen this year. Early in the fall, Ray Cal stepped forward and with drive, enthusiasm and determination took on the project where Kent left off. He, with organizational help from Mary McComb and Marion Trzebiatowski, enlisted volunteers and sites so that signs could be painted and distributed to sites all around the counties of Portage, Wood and Adams. In a matter of days after the election, the signs are now down and put into storage until our next election. Many of you have been involved in this project and all who participated deserve a great deal of thanks.



Thanks to the people that helped in every way with the sign effort:

Trish Baker, Amy Bakken, Madge Bishop, Woody Bishop, Julie Brazeau, Barbara Brewster, Raymond Cal, Clark Charles, Konrad Chojnacki, Nancy Chojnacki, Ken Cunningham, Joe DeBauche, Sanford DeWitt, Suzanne Fee, Bill Fehrenbach, Karlene Ferrante, Kim Fisher, Stephen Greco, Randy Groshek, Ned Grossnickle, Greg Hanneman, Charlotte Hensler, Ron Hensler, Mark Holbrook, Dan Halloway, Tori Jennings, Sue Koehl, Anna Koehl, Dan Koeune, Deb Koeune, Dave Lamb, Sam Lang, Janet Langton, Karen Lee, Ken Lee, Andy Longtine, Dick Martell, Mary McComb, Terry McDermott, Mike McGibbon, Jim McKnight, Kitty Munck, Paul Munck, Judith Peplinski, Dennis Raabe, Gene Reineking, Michele Repinski, Ray Reser, Charley Rossier, Glenda Rossier, Jim Saddison, Shirley Simonis, Barry Simonis, Alan Smith, Karyn Tank, Marian Treziatowski, Dave Way, Lynn Wyman & Rick Wyman. Listing provided by Ray Cal

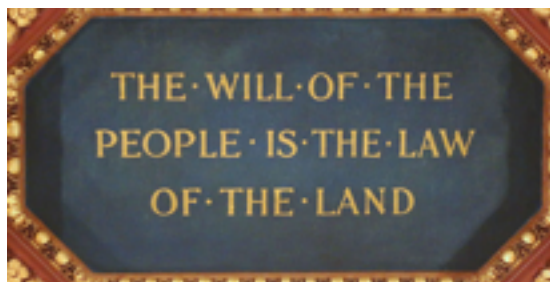
November 10 Member meeting



Once again, Ed Miller, UWSP Professor Emeritus, Co-Director of the Small City & Political Analyst for Wall Street Journal, was the featured speaker at our November meeting via Zoom.

Dr. Miller broke down data in the 2020 Presidential election and provided his analysis of the issues that motivated the vote in various sector of the demographics and populations. His presentation included graphs and charts in a power point format.

We thanked Dr. Miller for his insight and thoughtful and thorough presentation with a virtual handclap.



Governor Evers recently held a press conference and stated “that people should get to choose their elected officials, not the other way around. That’s why during my 2020 State of the State Address, I promised to create a nonpartisan redistricting commission, comprised of the people of our state—not elected officials, not lobbyists, and not political party officials—who will draw The People’s Maps”.

The People’s Maps Commission is a group of people that will hear directly from folks across our state and draw fair, impartial maps for the Legislature to take up in 2021. The Commission will consist of 9 voting members. They will conduct hearings across the state of Wisconsin and use the input from folks who testify at the hearings to draw and submit maps to the Legislature to vote on in 2021.

Hearings featuring the 3rd Congressional District will be held **November 19, 2020 5:30–8:30 PM**. The public is encouraged to submit written comment on the web site prior to the meeting.

Please visit the website www.govstatus.egov.com to learn more about the People’s Maps Commission, read about the commission members and your chance to add comment about redistricting efforts in 2021. It’s your opportunity to voice your concerns with the Republicans efforts to unfairly retain legislative power in Wisconsin.

The following slate for Executive Board members for 2021 was presented to the membership at the November meeting. A vote to approve this slate will be taken at the December 8th meeting.

Co-Chair	Gary Hawley
Co-Chair	Jan Way
1st Vice Chair	Jerod Barkley
2nd Vice Chair	Ned Grossnickle
3rd Vice Chair	Karyn Tank
4th Vice Chair	David Pederson
Statutory Chair	Michele Bjella
Treasurer	Rick Wyman
Secretary	Hilary Landowski
Newsletter Editor	Trudy Pederson
3rd CD Rep	Rick Christofferson
At Large	Jack Allgaier
At Large	Marlo Fields
At Large	Joan Garski
At Large	Valerie Landowski
At Large	Chris McLaughlin
At Large	Lynn Wyman
UWSP College Dems	
Co-President	Haley Bird
Co-President	Zach Kozlawski
Vice President	Anna Ryder

More Thanks by Jan Way

70th Assembly District Race

Thank you to John Baldus of the 70th who put himself out there in running against the incumbent from Tomah.

The 70th is one of the most gerrymandered districts in the State of Wisconsin and is truly an example of a district with areas that aren't fairly represented because the incumbent doesn't bother to visit very often and can be counted on to vote with the Republicans every time.

The towns of Hull, Eau Pleine, Carson, and Dewey are in this district that stretches down to Sparta.

Thank you also to Mary Von Ruden of Sparta, Adam Balz of Tomah and Ethan Smith with the Wis. Democratic Party who met weekly with John and myself as a kitchen cabinet, to discuss fundraising and methods of reaching out to constituents.

John made Fair Maps his primary focus and promises to continue to remind people, every chance he gets, of the need to redraw districts in fairness to the voters.



Anonymous Doner recognizes Marc Epstein's Leadership

The following note, with an accompanying donation, was received by PCDP and read at the meeting November 10th.

..."to honor the excellent work done by Marc Epstein and all the people he trained to become a fine-tuned, working machine to turn out votes. Marc helped to develop leadership within the PCDP into a smooth running, incredibly hard-working team to turn out the vote. His leadership was gracious, wise and compassionate, while spurring us on to collectively do our very best to get out the vote for the entire Democratic ticket on November 3rd.

When the polls were running so strongly in Biden's favor here in Wisconsin, some of us may have thought privately that it was perhaps a bit of overkill, but Marc kept us going. I think everyone who worked on that effort, no matter for how long or how little is grateful that we put all we had into the effort. Marc did a great job training interns, especially Hannah Frontier, and local leadership for future efforts, notably including Michele Bjella, Barb Brewster, Mary Hesch and Bill Fisher ".

Important Deadline is approaching



A reminder that the Affordable Care act deadline to request coverage in 2021 is December 15, 2020. It is best to apply asap as the website has become overwhelmed in past years with too many people trying to enroll at the last minute.

www.healthcare.gov

REMINDER: WEAR A MASK, SOCIAL DISTANCE, AVOID GATHERINGS, WASH YOUR HANDS, BE A RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN OF WISCONSIN!!!!



Portage County Democratic Party

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www.portagecountydems.org

Facebook: PortageCountyWIDems

Twitter: PortageCoWIDems@portagecountywidems



PCDP December 8, 2020 Meeting

6:30 call to order

Announcements

Program: Jenny Riggerbach, Executive Director of Farmshed will speak on the organization's outreach in the area of hunger

Authorized and paid for by Portage County Democratic Party